

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

10 May 1984

WALLOP SEES NO NEED TO DECLARE WAR ON NICARAGUA
CHEYENNE, WY

U.S. Sen Malcolm Wallop says the United States should resist totalitarianism in Nicaragua, but there is no reason to declare war on that country "at this time."

The Wyoming Republican, in an interview earlier this week, addressed questions on Central America, and on the philosophical dilemma posed by life-expanding advances in medicine.

Wallop, when asked if he would support a declaration of war against Nicaragua, responded, "I don't see any reason for declaring war against Nicaragua, at least at this time."

Wallop said, however, that the U.S. was obligated by treaty to resist the invasion by Nicaragua of "any of its neighbors."

The purpose of U.S. involvement in Nicaragua, said Wallop, is to stop that country from exporting its revolution; to resist Soviet and Cuban totalitarianism; and to communicate a message that "as a free nation we subscribe to people's desire for freedom."

Wallop said U.S. operations in Nicaragua are not evidence of a covert war by the CIA.

"It isn't the CIA's covert war," said Wallop. "The actions there are part of policy. The CIA doesn't operate outside the government. It operates inside the government."

Wallop was asked what Congress could do for people like a Douglas woman in need of a pancreas transplant who was denied federal aid because the operation is defined as "experimental."

"It's a very difficult question because the advance of medicine is such that you still have things which are labeled experimental...and which are still sort of life-saving in their potential," Wallop said.

The senator said it was important for the federal government to come to grips with quick-moving experimental techniques that can extend human life.

Wallop said America must decide whether or not every citizen is automatically entitled to the full advance of medical science "no matter what the cost."

Questions such as advanced medical care will be on the "frontburner" in Congress in a time when budget-cutting efforts are focusing attention on how best to spend the nation's money, Wallop said.

The senator said he doubts the federal government will ever see the day when there is automatic support for experimental techniques "even though they may have advanced to such a point where they really do hold promise for individuals."